

# Subordinating Conjunctions

Adverb clauses begin with **subordinating conjunctions**. Common subordinating conjunctions include *after, although, as if, as soon as, because, before, if, since, than, unless, until, when, wherever, and while*.

Some subordinating conjunctions, such as *after, as, before, since, and until*, can also be used as prepositions.

**SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTION** **After** I weed the garden, I put mulch around my new plants.

**PREPOSITION** It becomes too hot to garden **after** two o'clock.

**EXERCISE A** For each of the following sentences, indicate how the underlined word is used by writing above it *SC* for *subordinating conjunction* or *PREP* for *preposition*.

**Example 1.** <sup>*SC*</sup> After the rain soaked the earth, many seedlings appeared.

1. I have been trying to finish shelling these beans since yesterday.
2. Until you have read the instructions, do not prune that tree.
3. As the moon rose, coyotes slipped out of the trees.
4. I expected more flowers in the garden after I had planted so many seeds.
5. After this long, hot afternoon of garden work, I need a nap.

**EXERCISE B** Underline the adverb clause in each sentence, and circle each subordinating conjunction.

**Example 1.** I patched the garden fence after I noticed the rabbits' entry point.

6. As soon as the ground softens in the spring, plant your garden.
7. Some seeds take more time to sprout than others do.
8. If you want to grow morning glories, start the seeds under lights.
9. When the seeds sprout, you can transplant them into the garden.
10. Plant them near a fence or wall so that the plants can climb.
11. After the young plants grow strong, they will produce flowers.
12. The flowers will look as if they are big blue trumpets.
13. They're called morning glories because they open each morning.
14. When they are warmed by the morning sun, they open.
15. If the day is dark or stormy, they stay tightly shut, like closed umbrellas.